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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2015

DATE: October 14, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Janine Baker, Court Administrator, Sparks Justice Court
353-7600, jbaker@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Kevin Higgins, Administrative Judge 
SUBJECT: Acknowledge the creation of a third judicial seat in the Sparks Township Justice Court and placement of said seat on the 2016 election ballot pursuant to NRS 4.020; and direct Budget, Comptroller's Office and Human Resources to make the necessary adjustments.(Commission District 3, 4 & 5).

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 4.020, Sparks Township Justice Court is entitled to a third judicial seat based on the population of the township.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On February 12, 2008, the Board approved an Interlocal agreement with Sparks Justice Court deferring the creation of the third judicial seat for two years.

On March 2, 2010, the Board approved an Interlocal agreement with Sparks Justice Court deferring the creation of the third judicial seat for two years.

On February 28, 2012, the Board approved an Interlocal agreement with Sparks Justice Court deferring the creation of the third judicial seat for two years.

On November 12, 2013, the Board approved an Interlocal agreement with Sparks Justice Court deferring the creation of the third judicial seat for two years.

BACKGROUND

NRS 4.020 provides "one justice of the peace for each 50,000 population, or fraction thereof." The Sparks Township exceeded the 100,000 population mark in 2001 and has been entitled to a third judicial seat since that time but has deferred the creation of the

AGENDA ITEM # 3E

third seat due to a variety of factors including lack of physical space at a previous location and budget considerations.

According to the Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary Fiscal Year 2014, Sparks Justice Court is listed as the second busiest justice court in the State of Nevada based on cases per judicial position.

Senior Justice of the Peace James Mancuso presides at Sparks Justice Court two days per week to help reduce court congestion. Effective January 1, 2017, Judge Mancuso will no longer be sitting at Sparks Justice Court.

FISCAL IMPACT

Salary and benefits for the new position is estimated at \$200,000. Elimination of the Senior Judge position will reduce the fiscal impact to approximately \$140,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to acknowledge the creation of a third judicial seat in the Sparks Township Justice Court and placement of said seat on the 2016 election ballot pursuant to NRS 4.020; and direct Budget, Comptroller's Office and Human Resources to make the necessary adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Move to acknowledge the creation of a third judicial seat in the Sparks Township Justice Court and placement of said seat on the 2016 election ballot pursuant to NRS 4.020; and direct Budget, Comptroller's Office and Human Resources to make the necessary adjustments.

cc: John Slaughter, County Manager
Joey Orduna-Hastings, Asst. County Manager
Mark Mathers, Budget Manager
Mary Solorzano, Acting Comptroller
Luanne Cutler, Registrar of Voters



Sparks Justice Court
1675 E. Prater Way, Ste. 107
Sparks, NV 89434-8964

Chris Wilson
Justice of the Peace
Department 1

Kevin Higgins
Justice of the Peace
Department 2

October 1, 2015

Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 11130
Reno, NV 89520-0027

Re: Third Judge at Sparks Justice Court

Dear Chair Berkbigler and Members of the Commission:

Since 2001, Sparks Justice Court has been entitled to a third Justice of the Peace pursuant to NRS 4.020. While the population of the township has continued to grow, nearly to the point of qualifying for a fourth judge, the Court has repeatedly waived that position based on other more pressing issues as well as avoiding a financial hardship to the County.

The latest Nevada Judicial Report has Sparks Justice Court as the second busiest justice court in the state by cases per judge. Coupled with the fact that the County's budget situation has now been stabilized, the Sparks Justice Court will not be waiving the third judge position and is requesting placement of the third judge on the 2016 ballot pursuant to NRS 4.020.

With the election of the third judge, Sr. Justice of the Peace James Mancuso will no longer be sitting at Sparks Justice Court two days per week effective January 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Judge Chris Wilson.

Judge Chris Wilson
Department 1

Handwritten signature of Judge Kevin Higgins.

Judge Kevin Higgins
Department 2

cc: John Slaughter, County Manager
Luanne Cutler, Registrar of Voters